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MESSIAH.

AN

ORATORIO.

And without Controverſy, great is the Myſtery of Godlineſs: God was manifeſted in the Fleſh, juſtified by the Spirit, ſeen of Angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the World, received up into Glory.

In whom are hid all the Treaſures of Wiſdom and Knowledge.

PART I.

1. RECITATIVE, *accompany'd.*

COMFORT ye, comfort ye my people, ſaith your God; ſpeak ye comfortably to Jeruſalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accompliſhed, that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderneſs, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make ſtraight in the deſart a highway for our God.

SONG.

Every valley ſhall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked ſtraight, and the rough places plain.

CHORUS.

And the glory of the Lord ſhall be revealed, and all fleſh ſhall ſee it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath ſpoken it.

2. RECITATIVE, *accompany'd.*

Thus ſaith the Lord of Hoſts: Yet once a little while, and I will ſhake the heavens and the earth, the ſea and the dry land, and I will ſhake all nations, and the deſire of all nations ſhall come; the Lord, whom ye ſeek, ſhall ſuddenly come to his temple, even the Meſſenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in; behold he ſhall come, ſaith the Lord of Hoſts.

SONG.

But who may abide the day of his coming? And who ſhall ſtand when he appeareth?

For he is like a refiner's fire.

CHORUS.

And he ſhall purify the Sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteouſneſs.

RECITATIVE. 3.

Behold a virgin ſhall conceive, and bear a ſon, and ſhall call his name Emmanuel, GOD WITH US.

SONG and CHORUS.

O thou that telleſt good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that telleſt good tidings to Jeruſalem, lift up thy voice with ſtrength; lift it up, be not afraid; ſay unto the cities of Judah, behold your God.

Ariſe, ſhine, for the Light is come, and the Glory of the Lord is riſen upon thee.

RECITATIVE, *accompany'd.*

For behold darkneſs ſhall cover the earth, and groſs darkneſs the people: But the Lord ſhall ariſe upon thee, and his glory ſhall be ſeen upon thee; and the Gentiles ſhall come to thy light, and kings to the brightneſs of thy riſing.

SONG.

The people that have walked in darkneſs have ſeen a great light, and they that dwell in the land of the ſhadow of death, upon them hath the light ſhined.

CHORUS.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a ſon is given, and the government ſhall be upon his ſhoulder, and his name ſhall be called, Wonderful, Counſellor, the Mighty God, the Everlaſting Father, the Prince of Peace.

RECITATIVE.

There were ſhepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

RECITATIVE, *accompany'd.*

And lo, an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord ſhone round about them, and they were ſore afraid.

RECITATIVE.

And the angel ſaith unto them, Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which ſhall be to all people: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Chriſt the Lord.

RECITATIVE, *accompany'd.*

And ſuddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hoſt, praiſing God, and ſaying,

CHORUS.

Glory to God in the higheſt, and peace on earth, good-will towards men.

SONG.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion, ſhout, O daughter of Jeruſalem, behold thy King cometh unto thee.

He is the righteous Saviour, and he ſhall ſpeak peace unto the heathen. [*Da Capo.*

RECITATIVE.

Then ſhall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unſtopped; then ſhall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb ſhall ſing.

SONG.

He ſhall feed his flock like a ſhepherd: And he ſhall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his boſom, and gently lead thoſe that are with young.

Come unto him all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and he will give you reſt.

Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly of heart, and ye ſhall find reſt unto your ſouls.

CHORUS.

His yoke is eaſy, and his burden is light.

PART II.

CHORUS.

BEHOLD the Lamb of God, that taketh away the ſin of the world.

SONG.

He was deſpiſed and rejected of men, a man of ſorrows, and acquainted with grief. He gave his back to the ſmiters, and his cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; he hid not his face from ſhame and ſpitting. [*Da Capo.*

CHORUS.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carry'd our ſorrows: He was wounded for our tranſgreſſions, he was bruiſed for our iniquities; the chaſtiſement of our peace was upon him;

And with his ſtripes we are healed.

CHORUS.

All we like ſheep have gone aſtray, we have turned every one to his own way:

And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

RECITATIVE, *accompany'd.*

All they that ſee him laugh him to ſcorn; they ſhoot out their lips, and ſhake their heads, ſaying,

CHORUS.

He truſted in God that he would deliver him: Let him deliver him if he delight in him.

RECITATIVE, *accompany'd.*

Thy rebuke hath broken his heart, he is full of heavineſs: He looked for ſome to have pity on him, but there was no man, neither found he any to comfort him.

SONG.

Behold and ſee if there be any ſorrow like unto this ſorrow.

2. RECITATIVE, *accompany'd.*

He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the tranſgreſſion of thy people was he ſtricken.

SONG.

But thou didſt not leave his ſoul in hell, nor didſt thou ſuffer thy Holy One to ſee corruption.

SEMI-CHORUS.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlaſting doors, and the King of Glory ſhall come in.

SEMI-CHORUS.

Who is this King of Glory?

SEMI-CHORUS.

The Lord, ſtrong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

SEMI-CHORUS.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlaſting doors, and the King of Glory ſhall come in.

SEMI-CHORUS.

Who is this King of Glory?

SEMI-CHORUS.

The Lord of Hoſts: He is the King of Glory.

CHORUS.

The Lord of Hoſts: He is the King of Glory.

RECITATIVE. 4.

Unto which of the angels ſaid he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?

CHORUS.

Let all the angels of God worſhip him.

SONG. 5.

Thou art gone up on high, thou haſt led captivity captive, and received gifts for men, yea even for thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

CHORUS.

The Lord gave the word, great was the company of the preachers.

SONG.

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the goſpel of peace, that bring glad tidings of good things.

CHORUS.

Their ſound is gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world.

6. SONG.

Why do the nations ſo furiouſly rage together, and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth riſe up, and the rulers take counſel together, againſt the Lord and againſt his Anointed.

CHORUS.

Let us break their bonds aſunder, and caſt away their yokes from us.

7. RECITATIVE.

He that dwelleth in heaven ſhall laugh them to ſcorn: The Lord ſhall have them in deriſion.

SONG.

Thou ſhalt break them with a rod of iron, thou ſhalt daſh them in pieces like a potter's veſſel.

8. CHORUS.

Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Chriſt, and he ſhall reign for ever,
King of kings, and Lord of lords. Hallelujah.

PART III.

1. SONG.

I KNOW that my Redeemer liveth, and that he ſhall ſtand at the latter day upon the earth: And though worms deſtroy this body, yet in my fleſh ſhall I ſee God: For now is Chriſt riſen from the dead, the firſt fruits of them that ſleep.

CHORUS.

Since by man came death,
By man came alſo the reſurrection of the dead:
For as in Adam all die,
Even ſo in Chriſt ſhall all be made alive.

2. RECITATIVE, *accompany'd.*

Behold I tell you a myſtery: We ſhall not all ſleep, but we ſhall be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the laſt trumpet.

SONG.

The trumpet ſhall ſound, and the dead ſhall be raiſed incorruptible, and we ſhall be changed. For this corruptible muſt put on incorruption, and this mortal muſt put on immortality.

[*Da capo.*

RECITATIVE.

Then ſhall be brought to paſs the ſaying that is written, Death is ſwallowed up in victory.

DUET.

O death, where is thy ſting?
O grave, where is thy victory?
{ The ſting of death is ſin,
{ And the ſtrength of ſin is the law:

CHORUS.

But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

SONG.

If God be for us, who can be againſt us? Who ſhall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that juſtifieth, who is he that condemneth? It is Chriſt that died, yea rather that is riſen again, who is at the right-hand of God, who maketh interceſſion for us.

4. CHORUS.

Worthy is the Lamb that was ſlain, and hath redeemed us to God by his blood, to receive power, and riches, and wiſdom, and ſtrength, and honour, and glory, and bleſſing.
Bleſſing and honour, glory and power, be unto him that ſitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.

7 MA 55